

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed November 29, 2005, has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 1-3, 6-8 and 12-13 have been amended. Claims 1-15 are pending in the application.

In paragraph 2 on page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-15 were rejected under § 102(e) as being anticipated by Forehand.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection, but in the interest of expediting prosecution have amended the claims to overcome the rejections. Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references, alone or in combination, fail to disclose, teach or suggest Applicants' invention as recited in the amended claims.

Applicant's invention is for a method, apparatus and program storage device for minimizing the time required for performing an initial burnishing test cycle. For example, claim 1, as amended, requires performing an initial burnish operation, measuring an initial MR resistance for a head, determining whether the measured MR resistance indicates the head has clearance and completing the test cycle when the head is determined to have clearance.

In contrast, Forehand does not involve an initial burnish operation. Rather, Forehand is a procedure for recovering from a data read error. According to Forehand, when a data error occurs, an error recovery procedure is initiated. One group of steps performed by Forehand is to detect a data read error, offset the head from the track, lower the head to burnish the surface of the recording media, dwell for one or more revolutions of disc pack and determine whether a successful read may be performed.

However, Forehand does not perform an initial burnish operation. Forehand's burnish operation is in response to a data read error and asperity detection. According to Forehand, the amplitude of the read signal is monitored for sudden increases in amplitude beyond the normal signal baseline followed by a data error. Such a pattern provides a convenient means for detecting an asperity event.

In addition, Forehand fails to suggest measuring an initial MR resistance for a head. Accordingly, Forehand also fails to suggest determining whether the measured MR resistance indicates the head has clearance

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Forehand fails to disclose, teach or suggest Applicant's invention as recited in the amended claims.

Dependent claims 2-5, 7-10 and 12-15 are also patentable over the references, because they incorporate all of the limitations of the corresponding independent claims 1, 6 and 11, respectively. Further dependent claims 2-5, 7-10 and 12-15 recite additional novel elements and limitations. For example, Forehand fails to disclose, teach or suggest selecting at least one process from the group comprising reducing the pressure within the disclosure, reducing the spindle speed and increasing the pre-load to the head to reduce the fly-height of the head, determining whether measured MR resistance indicates the head has clearance by comparing the absolute MR resistance measurements to a threshold to identify whether the head has clearance, etc. Applicants reserve the right to argue independently the patentability of these additional novel aspects. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 2-5, 7-10 and 12-15 are patentable over the cited references.

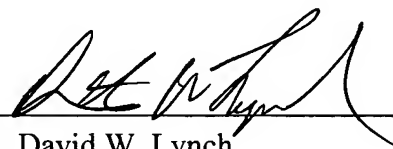
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On the basis of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of this application and its allowance are requested.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Attorney for Applicant, David W. Lynch, at 423-757-0264.

Respectfully submitted,

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